

having gas-injection openings upstream of the molten metal outlet opening; gas passage means for connecting a source of gas to the gas-injection openings in the form of a gas jet into the metal-lifting passage such that the gas induces a flow of molten metal from the molten metal inlet opening means toward the molten metal outlet opening along an axis of motion, the improvement comprising:

the molten metal inlet opening means comprising a window in the metal-lifting passage disposed coaxially and/or laterally with respect to the path of motion of the gas flowing through the metal-lifting passage; and

the gas-injection openings are disposed to introduce a gas jet into the metal-lifting passage along said axis of motion.

- ✓ In claim 2, line 3, delete "opening" insert thereinstead --- openings ---.
- ✓ In claim 21, line 8, delete "wall" insert thereinstead --- passage ---.
- ✓ In claim 25, line 1, delete "ports" insert thereinstead --- jet means ---.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-36 remain in the case for consideration.

The claims were all rejected under either 35 USC 102 (b) or 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art or as being anticipated by Areaux.

Areaux always requires that his metal-moving passage conduit be inclined, with the gas being delivered at or near the lower end of the conduit so bubbles raise the metal upwardly. See column 7, lines 55-60. See also column 12, lines 25-30:

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